

Welcome



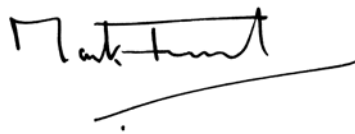
The Auckland Transition Agency (ATA) is making progress on analysing the discovery information supplied by councils and I have written to chief executives asking that our thanks are passed on to the council staff who have been and continue to be involved with us.

As discussed in the last issue of Transition Times, it is our aim to produce a discussion document including a draft of a proposed organisational structure for the new Auckland Council.

In this document we intend including some preliminary discussion of the employee change implications. It will be distributed to council employees by their employers – the existing local councils – in early November and the ATA will then seek feedback as appropriate.

In the meantime, any general comments and questions for the ATA are welcome to info@ata.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Mark Ford

Executive Chairman

Update on the work of the ATA

The board of the Auckland Transition Agency (ATA) has approved the appointment of an electoral officer for the 2010 Triennial General Election, as required by the Local Government (Tamaki Makaurau Reorganisation) Act 2009.

The board approved the appointment of Independent Election Services Ltd (IESL), with Dale Ofoske as the Electoral Officer. The appointment followed a request for proposal (RFP) process and a panel interview with ATA advisors David Blow and Rob Fisher, with the co-option of Bill Smith JP, a former Rodney District councillor with considerable experience in elections at local body level.

IESL is a current provider of electoral services to a number of local authorities in Auckland, to district health boards and licensing trusts

Updates on work streams

To ensure the timeframe required by the government is met, the ATA has organised tasks required for transition into project management work streams.

The full list is available at http://www.ata.govt.nz/web/cms_ata.nsf/weblive/WGTN-7TE734?OpenDocument.

The ATA is committed to providing updates on its progress and reports from a number of work streams are published below.

Finance and treasury

Contact andy.coupe@ata.govt.nz and brian.monk@ata.govt.nz

Implementation of the finance and treasury project plans is progressing, with discovery data received and distributed for analysis. There are now project plans in eight key areas – treasury, tax, procurement, rates, non-rates income, reporting and planning, technical accounting processes and procedures, and risk management/audit/insurance. A joint-councils advisory team is meeting with the ATA on a monthly basis to ensure the coordination of resources.

Community services

Contact colin.dale@ata.govt.nz

The project plan for the work stream is being finalised, while discovery information supplied by councils is analysed. Council staff are involved in each project area in the community services work stream, all of which are focused on achieving the most efficient and effective means of policy development and service delivery into the future. Additionally, Colin Dale is working with special interest groups in areas such as recreation and sport, arts and community services in the context of the ATA's role and responsibilities.

Human resources

Contact laila.harre@ata.govt.nz

Preparation of the discussion document on the organisational structure for the Auckland Council and the protocols and processes for transition is under way. Councils have been advised that the document will be released in November. Project plans for establishing the HR function of the new council are being considered and a process is beginning in relation to the harmonisation of collective agreements. These agreements cover most unionised staff and form the basis of many individual agreements.

Business processes and systems

Contact mike.foley@ata.govt.nz

Work is continuing with councils' chief information officers to initiate planning activities and secure resources to deliver the programmes of work required for Day 1. Additionally we are reviewing the assumptions and expectations of the other work streams. Work is being undertaken to verify the solutions required in the financial consolidation reporting and planning functions.

Customer services

Contact trish.langridge@ata.govt.nz

The councils returned their discovery questionnaires at the end of September and since then the work stream has been focused on organising and analysing the information. This will be used in the strategy and design phase of the project so that we understand how things currently work, what opportunities there are to make improvements and what issues and risks we will need to be managing. In addition work has also progressed on defining the scope of the eight projects within the customer service programme and on finding appropriate resources from councils and externally to work on the projects.

Regulatory services

Contact heather.harris@ata.govt.nz

Work has begun on organising and analysing discovery information received from councils. This analysis will be used in the strategy and design phase of the projects. The six principal projects within the regulatory work stream (resource consenting, building, animal control, licensing, enforcement and an overarching integration project to achieve consistency across regulatory processes) have been scoped. Ensuring appropriate delegations are in place for Day 1 will be important, not just for regulatory, but also across council activities.

Economic development

Contact craig.shearer@ata.govt.nz

A range of organisations including councils, economic development organisations, trusts and council controlled-organisations are involved in promoting economic development on behalf of local government in the Auckland region. Discovery and transition project planning have commenced. A close working relationship with the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) will be important to ensure that the structure of the new arrangements complement those of central government.

Communications and public affairs

Contact clive.nelson@ata.govt.nz

Work on the communications and public affairs work stream is progressing according to plan. Analysis of the discovery data has begun and project teams with council nominees are focusing on Day 1 requirements. Communications are also involved in customer service and work force/HR work stream activity.

Property

Contact david.blow@ata.govt.nz

Discovery information has been received and is being reviewed. Initial discussions have commenced with council representatives on the property unit requirements for the new council.

Environmental services

Contact kerry.connolly@ata.govt.nz

Activities in six project areas are under way - stormwater, solid waste, contaminated sites, natural and physical resources, harbour master and bio-security functions. Information from the discovery process is being evaluated and the work stream teams are involved in key issue identification, and project development for the strategy and design phase of the ATA process. Liaison is taking place with Watercare on inter-relationships between stormwater and wastewater functions.

Legal

Contact rob.fisher@ata.govt.nz

Project plans are being prepared and discovery analysis has begun. Work is under way in the following activity areas: legal function; legal resources database; litigation; legislation; and electoral officer.

CCOs, trusts and investments

Contact chris.mackenzie@ata.govt.nz

Analysis of discovery information is under way in respect of council-controlled organisations (CCOs). In water, the advisory group on governance has met ATA representatives. In transport, activities are now focused in the following areas: planning and programming; public transport operations; infrastructure development and management; road network operations; parking services and enforcement; road safety and travel planning; customer interface; staffing/HR; IT systems; premises and support systems; finance, contracts, assets and legal; transition plan; communications and branding; governance and stakeholder relations; and business planning.